Income Tax racket unearthed in Ahmedabad

779. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI unearthed an income-tax refund racket in Ahmedabad in the third week of December, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the details theerof; and

(c) what are the details of action taken against the officials involved in the racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) On 25th November, 1987, C.B.I. Ahmedabad registered an FIR against an Income-tax Officer, an Income-tax practitioner and three employees of the State Bank of India, suspecting their involvement in the fraudulent issue of income-tax refunds to the tune of Rs. 13,645/- in the Income-tax Office, Ahmedabad. During the investigation, certain searches were also conducted by the CBI in December, 1987.

(c) Does not arise as investigation by the CBI is in progress.

Impact of MODVAT on Export-Import Trade

780. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the impact of MODVAT on India's export-import trade during the period from July to December, 1987; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Although no specific assessment of the impact of 'MODVAT' on India's export-import trade for the period July to December 1987 has been made, the scheme is designed to help in promoting exports and curtailing imports. The set-off of excise and customs duty on final products makes manufactured exports competitive in the international market. On the import front, MODVAT encourages the process of indigenisation.

(b) Does not arise.

Measures to contain Inflation

781. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering several proposals to contain the spiralling inflation; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the measures contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Government has taken a number of anti-inflationary measures towards effective supply and demand management including enhanced distribution of foodgrains through Public Distribution System (PDS); strengthening of PDS with the opening of additional outlets; import of essential commodities like pulses: edible oils & sugar; strict economy in government expenditure; mopping up of excess liquidity in the economy by raising Cash Reserve Ratio and Statutory Liquidity Ratio; imposition of selective credit control and intensive action against hoarders and profiteers.

Indo-Austrian Trade

782. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Austrian trade delegation visited India in January, 1988

to explore the possibilities of boosting up the Indo-Austrian trade; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the discussions held between the visiting delegation and their Indian counterparts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) An Austrian delegation visited India between 27th January and 3rd February, 1988. The delegation was sponsord by the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber and discussed with representatives of Indian Commerce and industry possibilities for expanding technology transfer, joint ventures and trade between the two countries.

Amendment of the new textile policy

783. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers in the textile industry are agitative against "irrational textile policy" that has led to the closure of 55 mills in the country and unemployment for 72,000 workers besides smuggling of textiles on a large scale; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering any amendment in the new textile policy as to ensure growth of all sectors in the industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Government are aware of protests made by the textile workers.

(b) There is no proposal to alter the present textile policy, since it contains may significant features aimed at the integrated and harmonious development of all sectors of the textile industry.

Recommendations of Deshmukh Committee and Ashok Nath Committee

784. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the Deshmukh Committee and the Ashok Nath Committee which had investigated into the security lapses by Delhi Police Officers in protecting the Prime Minister on October 2, 1986 and what action has been taken on the recommendations of the two Committees; and

(b) what are the reasons for setting up a third Committee headed by Shri R. N. Palit on the same issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A Committee under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary was constituted by the abinet Secretariat to go into the incident involving an attempt on the life of the Prime Minister at Raj Ghat on 2nd October, 1986. In the light of the recommendations made by the Committee appropriate steps were taken to tighten the security for the VVIPs.

No Committee known as Ashok Nath Committee or R. N. Palit Committee has been set up in this regard. However, Shri R. N. Palit, Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat has been appointed as the Inquiry Officer to enquire into the charges framed against crtain officers who have been charge sheeted with departmental enquiry for lapses in the security arrangements at Raj Ghat on the 2nd October, 1986.